

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Uncompahgre Field Office  
2465 South Townsend Avenue  
Montrose, CO 81401**

**Decision Record**

**(DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2012-0030 EA)**

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE: North Rim Integrated Vegetation Management Plan FY 2012 Implementation

DECISION:

It is my decision to continue to implement the North Rim Integrated Vegetation Management Plan; specifically 880.2 acres (map in the EA) of young piñon juniper woodland will be hydro-axed and seeded with native grasses and forbs described in Table 1 (of the EA) to increase herbaceous ground cover and to promote accelerated sagebrush community development. The existing sagebrush and mountain shrub community will be avoided to the greatest extent practicable. The site identified has deep soil and is formerly a sagebrush community that now through succession can be equally considered a young piñon juniper stand. These sites still exhibit woody and herbaceous plant characteristics of sagebrush communities.

- All project activities will occur well after the nesting and brood rearing season to ensure all young of the year bird species potentially occurring within the project area can effectively move and avoid operating equipment. In light of the ongoing drought project dates will be delayed to ensure that equipment does not potentially cause a wildland fire.
- Seeding activities will occur between November 15 and December 31.
- All heavy equipment will be power washed before entering public lands. This includes all lowboys hauling heavy equipment.
- Treatment areas will be inventoried for noxious and invasive weeds prior to treatment.
- All noxious and invasive weeds will be treated before and after treatment has occurred.

MITIGATION MEASURES: Follow appropriate design features listed in the North Rim Integrated Vegetation Management Plan, Environmental Assessment number DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2011-0007 EA.

### MONITORING:

The fuels specialist will ensure compliance with design features when implementing the mechanical portions of the project.

The completed projects will be mapped using a Geographic Positioning System (GPS). A photo point(s) will also be established prior to commencing the project.

The proposed project will be monitored at intervals (currently 2 years and 5 years following treatment), identified by the Uncompahgre Field Office vegetation treatment monitoring protocol.

Monitor project sites for the spread of weeds, and spot treat as needed for a three-year (minimum) period.

Monitor all areas of soil surface disturbance for signs of accelerated soil erosion. Monitoring will occur for a minimum of three years or until disturbed soils are stabilized by established vegetation.

RATIONALE: This project is in compliance with the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area RMP. The Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having significant effect on the human environment. The proposed action will continue to implement the North Rim Integrated Vegetation Management Plan. The project serves to improve habitat suitability for Gunnison Sage-grouse within the project area.

COMPLIANCE WITH MAJOR LAWS: The decision is in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and policy, including the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Historic Preservation Act.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared for EA # DOI-BLM-CO-S050-2011-0007 EA (North Rim Integrated Vegetation Management Plan), based on the information contained in that EA and consideration of criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27). The conclusion in that FONSI, dated July 11, 2011, remains valid, and a new FONSI does not need to be prepared. It is my determination that: 1) the implementation of the proposed action will not have significant environmental impacts; 2) the Proposed Action is in conformance with the Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan; and 3) the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

APPEALS:

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right of appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4.400. Appeal and stay procedures are outlined in Form CO-050-1842-1.

NAME OF PREPARER: Ken Holsinger

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Bruce Krickbaum

DATE 8/17/2012

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL /s/ *Barbara Sharrow*  
Barbara Sharrow  
Field Manager  
Uncompahgre Field Office

DATE SIGNED 8/20/2012